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SOME RECENT USSR WORK IN THE FIELD OF MEDICAL BIOLOGY

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[The following excerpts are taken from a report presented by Nesterov at the 8th Session of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, Moscow, 8-10 December 1953. Nesterov's report deals with the progress of work done at the Institutes of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR during 1951-1953.]

Research on the problem of cellular and noncellular forms of living matter was continued at the Institute of Experimental Biology, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, under the direction of O. P. Lepeshinskaya.

Investigations conducted by M. A. Vorontsova and V. N. Zamarayev have shown that by means of accustoming the organism to minor wounds, for instance to minor cuts inflicted on the skin and applied during the period preceding surgery, one can obtain a complete healing of wounds of internal organs. These data, which testify to the fact that the regulation of healing processes is neurogenic, are of interest to surgeons.

Of great interest are data which indicate that the "trace" left by supplementary wounds in the organism afflicted by a tumor process may be removed by the application of caffeine. A number of investigations carried out by USSR biologists (I. A. Utkin and others) have shown that proliferation of cells (mitosis) proceeds in the organism on the basis of unconditional and conditional reflexes. It has been established in experimental work that this law is valid not only for normal cells but also for tumor cells. These investigations prove theoretically that it is possible to influence proliferation processes from the practical [therapeutic] standpoint.

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